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ABSTRACT

The projection of space needs for research is a function of--(1) graduate student enrollment, (2) the particular academic discipline, and (3) the level of research activity. It is proposed that the full time equivalent graduate student population be used as being representative of the overall requirements, with some exceptions. A later paper, CCHE-60, under EF 001 732, may be referred to for the projection procedure itself. (NI)

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/ DETERMINING RESEARCH SPACE NEEDS AND ESTABLISHING GUIDELINES /

The projection of required space for research is one of the most difficult problems facing educational space estimators. Except at a few institutions, notably the University of California, the University of Illinois and Indiana's public universities who are pioneering in the area of research space projections, accepted guidelines for research space are not available for comparative purposes. Not alone is the matter of appropriate allowances for current programs complicated, but the matter of estimating future requirements in dynamic areas of scholarship is even more difficult. We are obliged, nevertheless, to determine a concept and find a method flexible enough to bridge both current and future programs. Like other guidelines for space, the research guideline should support program determinations and should permit imaginative institutional planning. Then, too, we must recognize that a substantial portion of the research space is funded by other than state appropriations, and guidelines must allow for this continuing advantageous relationship. The guidelines developed should be relatively easy to apply as a review tool at the Coordinating Committee level based upon identifiable data.

The work that has been done in this area in other states is primarily based on the concept that space research needs are a function of two factors:

I. The level of activity devoted to research by all levels of participating personnel.

II. The varying amounts of space required to conduct different types of academic research programs.

The staff's proposed concept follows these two factors.

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Comment on Factor I

The persons involved in research programs range from participating, full professors to the technical and administrative personnel in the laboratories. The Coordinating Committee staff believes that the common denominator within the research personnel group is the graduate student. We believe there is an historic and deliberate policy relationship between graduate work and research activity in Wisconsin's state-supported universities.

However, there are exceptions to this general rule; for example, certain public service-oriented research programs do not necessarily attract or support graduate students. These programs should be treated as exceptions to the rule of measurement by graduate students and, in turn, should be supported on a project basis in terms of the academic nature of the program being conducted. The Federal Government and American industry are turning increasingly to the universities for mission-oriented research, and we can expect institutional involvement to increase relatively with the magnitude of governmental and industrial commitment

Comment on Factor II

It is axiomatic that research programs vary substantially in space requirements depending upon the academic discipline being pursued. At the Coordinating Committee level, the several disciplines can be dealt with in three or four broad categories, generally, the groupings of disciplines represented in the academic divisional structure. Our guidelines should allow space based on established institutional experience in the several academic categories. The other element related to square footage allowances relates to the level of

research activity as performed at the master's degree level and the Ph. D. degree level. The Ph. D. sequence is heavy in research activity and light in formal course requirements; the master's degree sequence, conversely, is heavier in formal course work and relatively light in research activity.

If it is agreed that the number and mix of graduate students is the common denominator of research activity, then we propose to use the full time equivalent,graduate student population as representative of the overall requirements. Included in the representative allotment of square footage will be necessary space for all levels of personnel engaged in the research programs.

One other exception to the proposed guidelines must be recognized; to wit, certain facilities house specialized equipment or processes requiring supporting space above and beyond the normal allowances by academic category - for example, a biotron complex or a nuclear accelerator. Requests for facilities of this kind must be reviewed necessarily in terms of their unusual space characteristics.

Assuming this concept to be acceptable, the staff, in cooperation with the operating systems, will develop and recommend appropriate allowances of space by academic category and representative weightings by level of graduate student.